



NEWS RELEASE

EL PASO BORDER PATROL SECTOR
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
8901 MONTANA AVENUE
EL PASO, TEXAS 79925
(915) 834-8350

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 29, 2001

EI PASO SECTOR AGENTS SEIZE OVER \$ 2.7 MILLION IN MARIJUANA

Mexican National Arrested in a Stolen Vehicle

With 638 Pounds of Marijuana

Border Patrol agents from the El Paso Sector seized 3,391 pounds of marijuana in seven separate seizures this week, including 638 pounds in Ft. Hancock yesterday from a vehicle driven by an illegal immigrant and 1,872 pounds in Santa Teresa on Sunday.

Ft. Hancock agents seized a load in a 1994 Jeep Grand Cherokee approximately 7 miles west of the Fort Hancock Port of Entry. Agents working from a tip from the Department of Public Safety Narcotics Unit, encountered the vehicle traveling north from the border area. While agents responded to the area, the driver of the vehicle, turned back south, attempting to evade agents. The driver stopped just north of the border area, exited the vehicle and attempted to hide in some brush. He was soon located by the agents and detained. During inspection of the scene, the agents observed bundles through the windows of the vehicle. The driver was then arrested. Registration checks on the vehicle identification number revealed it had been reported stolen.

Other seizures made this week by agents in the El Paso Sector were:

- ◆ 1,872 pounds of marijuana by agents at the Santa Teresa, New Mexico Station, one undocumented immigrant arrested
- ◆ 543 pounds of marijuana by agents at the Ft. Hancock, Texas Station
- ◆ 229 pounds of marijuana by agents at the Las Cruces, New Mexico Station, in three separate incidents, two U.S. Citizens arrested
- ◆ 109 pounds of marijuana by agents at the Ysleta, Texas Station

Since October 1, 2000, El Paso Sector agents have made 651 seizures, valued at \$75 million.

~end~